

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03553 300005Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /056 W
-----300024Z 069996 /15

P R 290924Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3581
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3553

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT KS PFOR
SUBJ: FONMIN CITES AT ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE IMPROPER ACTIONS BY
U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND HOUSE STAFFER

1. AT APRIL 29 JOINT MEETING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES, GOVERNMENT PARTY MEMBERS
ADDRESSED QUESTIONS TO FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN, ALLEGING IMPROPER
ACTIONS BY U.S. OFFICIALS. DURING INTER-PELLATCTN SESSION,
FONMIN ACCUSED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PROSECUTOR OF IMPROPER
ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE FORMER KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. HAM PYONG-
CHUN AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STAFFER, JOHN SALZBERG, OF
INTERFERENCE IN ROK DOMESTIC AFFAIRS DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO
KOREA WITH CODEL WOLFF.

2. COMMENTS WERE ELICITED WHEN DRP ASSEMBLYMAN MIN
PYONG-KI ASKED FONMIN IF AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY
APPROACHED BY JUSTICE DEPT. OFFICIAL PRIOR TO HAM'S
RETURN TO KOREA. QUESTIO CWAS FRAMED IN CONTEXT OF
KIM SANG-KUN CASE. IN CLARIFICATION, FONMIN SAID HAM
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HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY OLD HARVARD CLASSMATE WHO CONVEYED
"STRANGE AND IMPROPER" MESSAGE FROM JUSTICE PROSECUTOR MICHELL
(PHONETIC), "INDIRECTLY ENCOURAGING HAM TO SEEK ASYLUM".
FONMIN SAID HAM WAS TOLD THAT "RETURNING TOKOREA WILL BE
DANGEROUS. IF THERE IS ANYTHING(JUSTICE DEPT). CAN DO FOR YOU,
PLEASE LET US KNOW." ACCORDING TO FONMIN, HAM "ANGRILY" TELE-
PHONED UNDERSECRETARY HABIB AND LODGED STERN PROTEST AND LATER

ROKG ALSO MADE PROTEST TO U.S.G., RECEIVING AN APOLOGY.

3. YUCHUNGHOE'S CHU YONG KWAN ASKED IF JOHN SALZBURG HAD "INTERFERRED IN (KOREAN) INTERNAL AFFAIRS DURING HIS VISIT". FONMIN RESPONDED THAT SALZBERG HAD MET CRIMINALS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AGITATED THEM, AND HAD ATTACHED KOREA AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ATTENDED BY KOREANS. FONMIN CONTINUED SAYING ROKG HAD LODGED STRONG PROTEST WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT OVER ISSUE." ACCORDING TO FONMIN, ROKG WILL CONSIDER "COUNTERMEASURES TO INSURE SUCH THINGS WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN IN FUTURE."

4. LOCAL PRESS HAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED THESE EXCHANGES, WITH MAIN FOCUS ON HAM ISSUE, BUT NO EDITORIALS HAVE YET BEEN CARRIED ON SUBJECT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST PRESS GUIDANCE WITH REFERENCE TO FONMIN'S EXCHANGE ON AMBASSADOR HAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL03553
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770151-0199
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977044/aaaaacsc.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d09a2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2753951
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN CITES AT ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE IMPROPER ACTIONS BY U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND HOUSE STAFFER
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US, (PAK TONG-CHIN), (HAM PYONG-CHUN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d09a2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009